

Deja Vu?

The Inyo County NEWS-LETTER

60¢

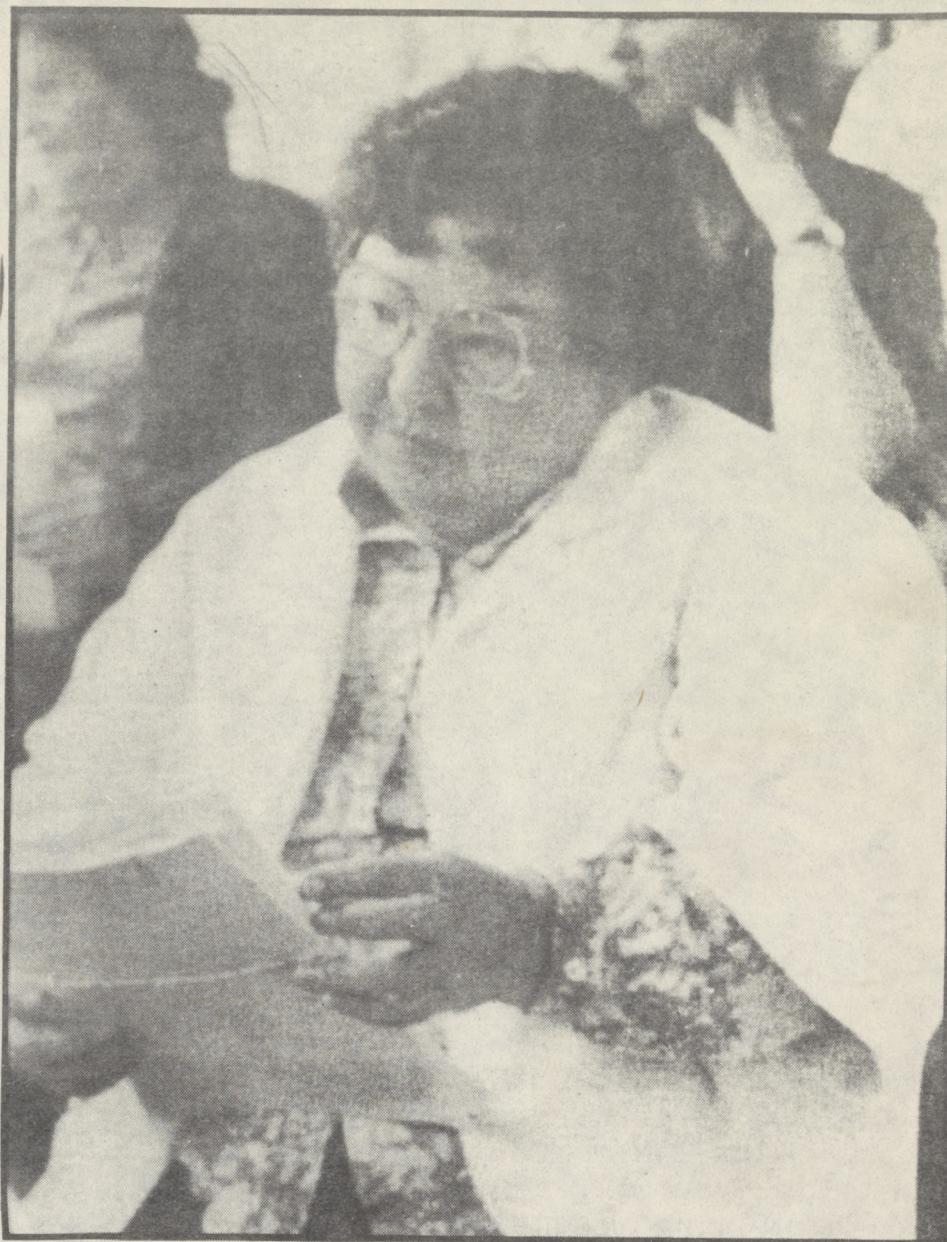
November, 1984

Was it happening all over again? For Inyo County's Welfare director, Connie Bennett, it looked like deja vu - a repeat of problems. She came to Inyo from Sierra County where she directed the Social Welfare department for something like six years. Officials in Sierra County claim that Ms. Bennett mismanaged her department there and that "there was dissension within her office." They say that Sierra County had to pay back around \$24,000 to the State because of problems in Bennett's department.

Usually no one much cares about the past of County officials, that is until something goes wrong. And it was when Ms. Bennett fired two of her key workers in Inyo that questions came up over her background. The firings of Monte Clifford and Nona Holloway shocked many and caused others to ask if there was a deeper problem within the Welfare department. Sources close to the situation indicated that there may be a management problem. The Inyo County Grand Jury made plans to take a look. Grand Jurors said they wanted a management audit of the Welfare department.

According to Sierra County officials, something very similar happened in their county when Ms. Bennett headed Welfare. Sierra County Supervisor Earl Withycombe told News-Letter that "I was beginning to gather information over concerns from employees, and internal mismanagement concerns did come out in an audit. It was timely," he said, "that she (Connie Bennett) accepted employment elsewhere when she did." The elsewhere was Inyo County. And so, Ms. Bennett left before a Supervisorial investigation was complete. But Withycombe said that the State did audit the Sierra County Welfare department and found "inappropriate expenditures charged to program categories. They were inappropriate from the State

(continued on p.2)



Inyo's Welfare Director Connie Bennett

Inside This Issue:

News Briefs	p. 4
"A Tale of One City"	p. 8
Education and the Election	p. 10
Forum	p. 16
Benbrook	p. 17
BK's Notes	p. 18

regulation stand point." Supervisor Withycombe said that there were "incidents where some expenses were double claimed." He explained that this meant both the State and County paid for the same expense. In one case, he said it was travel costs claimed by Ms. Bennett and in another, claims for an employee's time.

Supervisor Withycombe said that there was dissension in the Sierra County Welfare department, but he said there was no full investigation to substantiate wrongdoing. He did say that early in Ms. Bennett's administration she had fired an employee who went to an appeal hearing and won.

Sierra County Auditor, Don Hemphill, said that a State audit of Ms. Bennett's department revealed



Nona Holloway with her lawyer Ed LaPlount

"incorrect claiming of costs and a lack of documentation of expenditures." He said that initially the State asked Sierra County to pay back roughly \$46,000. But he said that the County negotiated that amount down to around \$24,000. He said Sierra County budgeted that money this year for a payback.

Another Sierra County Supervisor, Bison Robinson, who has been a Supervisor for 14 years, said that the Sierra Supervisors "made an effort to fire Connie Bennett in 1977, but the votes were not there." Robinson said that there was "no organization in Ms. Bennett's department and she was off in the accounting of Welfare funds." Supervisor Robinson said that the current Sierra County Welfare director was "distressed for the first year he was with us" because of the past problems in that department. He said that the State was in the beginning of an audit of Bennett's operations when

she left. It was prior to that time when Inyo Welfare director Norm Paulson was tragically killed in an auto accident. Connie Bennett applied for his job and the Inyo Supervisors appointed her.

Now, as in Sierra County, Connie Bennett is embroiled in employee firings and appeal hearings and the possibility of a special audit of her department. It looked like a bad dream all over again.

We tried to talk to Ms. Bennett about this. We called and left urgent messages for several days, but she did not return any of those calls.

Monte Clifford and Nona Holloway have gone through appeal hearings and it appears the County and Holloway may settle. In Holloway's case, she was fired and then re-hired by Connie Bennett who at that time refused to comment on whether she had made a mistake by firing

Holloway. A day later, Ms. Bennett fired Holloway again. Ms. Holloway revealed that one of the conditions of her re-hiring was that she would not talk to news reporters. And, in fact, she didn't speak to us, but other sources had revealed the terms of her re-hiring and reporters did press Connie Bennett and Assistant County Counsel Alicia James for details.

Holloway's attorney, Ed LaPlount, had said he believed news coverage of Holloway's plight did contribute to her second firing. It all added up to a bizarre situation and prompted not only reporters, but apparently the Grand Jury to take a closer look.

The Inyo Supervisors seemed reluctant to spend money on an audit of the Welfare department, but Judge Don Chapman planned to decide on that expenditure after a hearing he had scheduled for November 17th.



Lawyer Linda Anisman with Monte Clifford

And even more questions came out of the employee appeal hearings. Ms. Holloway had testified that she and Mr. Clifford were concerned about a lie detector test given to the alleged victim in a reported child sexual abuse case. She testified that the girl believed the test was given to her improperly. Testimony revealed that Monte Clifford had made calls to check on the credentials of the lie detector administer. District Attorney Buck Gibbons testified that he felt these calls were highly improper. He had reported them to Connie Bennett. Apparently this incident contributed to Clifford's firing.

Asked why she and Clifford had not taken their concerns about the lie detector test to District Attorney Gibbons, Ms. Holloway said, "I felt this case was headed in a dangerous direction, and I didn't want to get involved in a political issue." Later she declined to comment on what she meant by that.

Informed sources close to the situation indicated that a prominent local man was the one being investigated for alleged sexual abuse of a minor. ■

by ESNS

Turkey Classic *Auto Races*

Sat. & Sun.
November 24 & 25

Pits Open - 10 AM
First Race
1 P.M.
Each Day

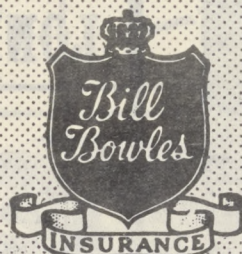
25 Lap
Feature
For
Each
Division

Limited
Stocks Claimer Mini
 Stocks Stocks

plus Ladies Powder Puff

PEARSON SPEEDWAY

(619) 446-6583 (619) 446-4811



220 So Stine Rd
Bakersfield
(805) 397-1616



coverage for

your car, your home

or your business

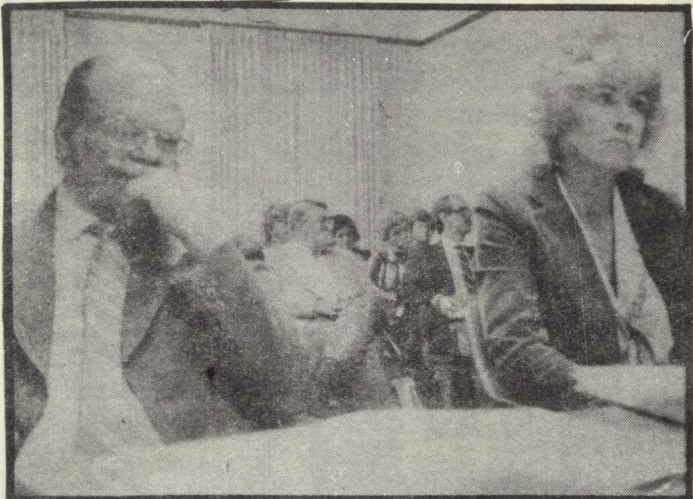
give us a call
EST. 1953

TESTIMONY

News Briefs

POWER AND THE JUDGE

The power has always been there, but Judge Don Chapman is the first in a long time who has chosen to use it. The position of Superior Court Judge carries with it inherent power. The State pays the Judge's salary so he is not dependent on the Supervisors to dole out his pay. And law gives the Judge sanctioned power to make autonomous decisions which affect county government outside the control of the Supervisors. It all adds up to power potential.



Judge Don Chapman with Grand Juror Alice Lloyd

As most know, Judge Chapman recently took an unprecedented step - he called a press conference, excluded county officials, and told news reporters exactly what he thought of the Supervisors and the District Attorney. The Judge said they treated the Grand Jurors, citizen volunteers, in a rude, condescending and patronizing manner. He accused the Board of trying to pressure the Jurors to tell what they know about the Welfare Department...and of trying to pressure the Jury out of investigating that Department.

Those who witnessed the meeting had to agree with the Judge. In fact, those who have occasion to sit in the Board room, especially those who contradict Supervisorial views, have often witnessed what one man called "the idiot treatment" the Board gives the public. Sometimes it works for the Supervisors, who manage to convince some people that they were really wrong in the first place. This time, they tried to shame the Grand Jury out of investigating the

Holmes Health Haven STORE UP!

With good, wholesome food
from your healthful store.
Vitamins too!

A complete line of "Joe
Weider" products

- THE HEALTHY PLACE TO SHOP -

872-5571

192 W. Line

Bishop

Propane & Service

LONE PINE GAS CO., INC.

P.O. BOX G 1000 N. MAIN ST.
PHONE: 876-5921
LONE PINE

"Your Only Home-Owned Gas Company"

CARPET * LINOLEUM * CERAMIC TILE
TILE * HARDWOOD FLOORS

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL FLOOR REMODELING
Tonopah, Mono County, and Southern Inyo

Hoover Vacuums
& Accessories

Master Card
Visa

Modern Floors

LIC. #244228

873-5406

1240 N. MAIN, BISHOP

Welfare Department. But this time, Judge Chapman was there and called their hand on it.

It is a phenomenon that still has the Courthouse buzzing. And it was a shock to those officials who covet Courthouse power to recognize that Judge Don Chapman knows he has influence, and he's not afraid to use it.

A HOSTAGE OF DWP?

INYO - a hostage of Los Angeles. That's the way many see the current water situation. Mary DeDecker, president of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society, has probably stated the truth of the situation most succinctly. In her latest message in the CNPS Newsletter, DeDecker writes that the Third District Court of Appeals delivered strong requirements to DWP and Inyo on the water agreement and demanded that Los Angeles obey environmental law. But Ms. DeDecker has a warning:

"While the Court's opinion upheld the major concerns of the people of Owens Valley who opposed the agreement, it may have the effect of lulling them into a sense of false security. The battle is far from won; there is danger that it will be given away.

"The result is that Inyo and Los Angeles are now working on two stipulations. One, concerned with groundwater, will go back to the Third District Court of Appeals. The other will address the remaining issues being negotiated and will not be submitted to that Court. The latter allows for political hanky-panky which could allow excessive pumping, and yet be outside the scrutiny of that Court.

"The Court has put Inyo in the strongest position ever, but did not close the loopholes outside its jurisdiction. Inyo County officials are not expected to take advantage of this golden opportunity because they are being held hostage by the dollars involved. This was a danger pointed out by the people in the beginning. These items of the agreement will be addressed in the second stipulation. Issues continue to be clouded, also, by faulty analysis.

"The dollars provide, among

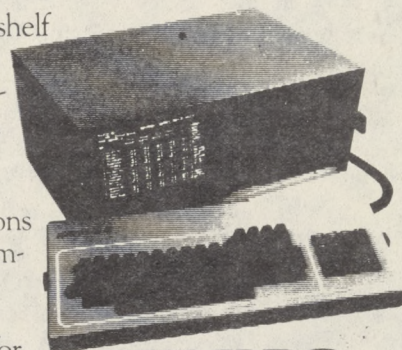
other things, money to operate the Inyo County Water Department. It was created to implement the Groundwater Ordinance which it is now bypassing. It is political reality that the Water Department and its Water Commissioners, who are
(continued on p. 6)

KAYPRO II. YOUR COMPUTER DECISION.

A Kaypro II comes off our shelf for \$1295, complete. So you don't have to decide what hardware you need. It's complete on a Kaypro II.

And you don't have to decide what business applications software you need. It comes complete with a Kaypro II.

To see how one computer decision can work completely for you, come in today for a complete Kaypro II demonstration.

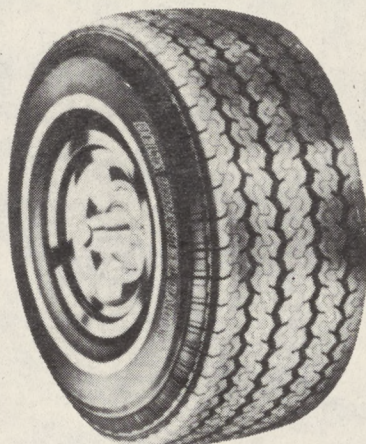


KAYPRO

The Complete Business Computer.

*Micro Mountain
computers*

218-A S. MAIN STREET
BISHOP



Steel
RADIALS -
Now is the time!
Starting as low as

\$39.95

155 X 12

★ Free Mounting

★ Computerized Spin Balancing

★ Custom Rims

"Delta"
DISCOUNT TIRE STORE

BISHOP STORE

873-7442

351 N. MAIN - BISHOP

BRIDGEPORT STORE

932-7741

MAIN ST. - BRIDGEPORT



part of the negotiating team, give high priority to their own security. This is only a part of the hostage situation. Another large sum of money goes toward the in-depth environmental studies initiated by Inyo County. But now the County finds itself in a corner whereby they believe that continuation of the studies depends on the good will of Los Angeles. Proposed mitigation measures, which may be of questionable value for true mitigation, contain plums which would be hard to give up. As for the Board of Supervisors, they give the highest priority to dollars needed now as opposed to the future well being of Owens Valley. It seems, too, that they are being duped into assuming responsibilities that are rightfully the obligation of Los Angeles.

"Public hearings have been promised, but that requirement was only a gesture last time. The 14 page opinion handed down by the Third Appellate Court is a most supportive document, but those who follow the issues are not optimistic. There is only a dim hope that Inyo officials will make use of the power handed to them."

Although many doubt that the Supervisors would listen, the public was invited to make comments on the agreement at the November 6th Board meeting.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS!

Can't teach an old Supervisor new tricks? Well, Supervisorial challenger Jerry Zeutzius says "it's totally ridiculous for Bob Bremmer to have insisted on another secret meeting with Los Angeles...right after DWP betrayed us on Assembly Bill 3567."

Zeutzius was talking about a meeting between Inyo and Los Angeles officials that went on behind closed doors even after members of the Inyo public asked to be included. "Going into a secret session with DWP is like asking to get hit right between the eyes," said Zeutzius. "They are at their best when there is no one there."

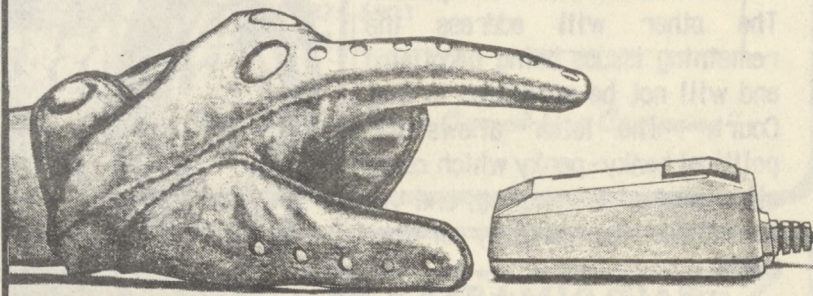
Zeutzius says he is for some kind of agreement with Los Angeles...but one that really gives the Inyo people something of lasting value. Zeutzius was a member of the Water Commission advisory committee when officials were putting together an agreement. Zeutzius and others told the Water Commissioners what they thought - that it was a weak agreement which allowed DWP to pump still more Owens Valley water. The Water Commissioners tried to silence the advisory committee and even admitted they wouldn't have been so upset if the advisory committee had supported the agreement. "I guess they wanted yes men", said Zeutzius.

In election media commercials, Water Commissioner Harry Holgate blasted Zeutzius for being uncooperative and ineffective in past jobs. Zeutzius admits he refused to cooperate with officials who were bent on selling-out the County.

As for the current form of the water agreement, Zeutzius said, "it is ridiculous to tie money to the agreement. L.A. is saying that if we catch them breaking the agreement and report it, they will take their money back. That's blackmail. They are holding us hostage for money."

(continued on p. 19)

Take Macintosh out for a test drive.



Bishop Typewriter
621 W. Line
Bishop, CA 93514
873-5773

No purchase necessary.




Authorized Dealer

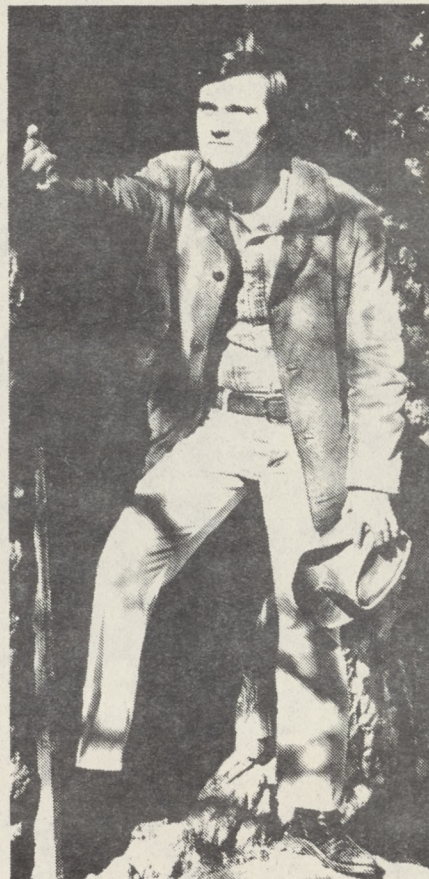
Right now, anyone who
qualifies* can walk into our
store during their lunch hour,
and walk out with a Macintosh.™

Three solid reasons why State Assemblyman Phil Wyman is our best choice on November 6 . . .

First, Phil Wyman is an effective legislator. Official records reveal that among members of the State Assembly, our Assemblyman Phil Wyman has one of the highest percentages of bills he introduced being passed into law. Fifty bills authored by Assemblyman Wyman are now state law, including important measures dealing with crime, toxic waste, nursing home reform, and energy.

Second, Phil Wyman is a hard worker. Again, state records show that Assemblyman Phil Wyman has one of the best records in Sacramento of being present and voting on bills before the State Assembly. A recognized leader in the legislature, he has served as Chairman of the Assembly Constitutional Amendments Committee and is currently the senior Republican of the Assembly Transportation Committee and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

Third, Phil Wyman gets things done for our District. Projects ranging from road improvements on State Highways 14, 395, and 58 to a new K-8 school in Caliente to needed new jail facilities in Kern County have received state funding as a result of Assemblyman Phil Wyman's effective work for our district. Assemblyman Phil Wyman maintains four local offices within our district — more than any other Central or Southern California Assembly member — and a skilled staff to help people who have problems with state government.



Thoughtful taxpayers who have reviewed the record agree: Phil Wyman adds up to our best choice for State Assembly on November 6.

Phil Wyman

your State Assemblyman

"A Tale of One City"



Hal Newell

"Darwin...it's a microcosm of the outside world." That's how Darwin Water Board member Hal Newell philosophically described the bitter tug of war now going on in the tiny Southern Inyo community.

As a matter of fact, most you talk to in Darwin discuss the situation with a degree of equanimity and thoughtfulness. But so far, no one has changed the bitter feud that has raged on, sometimes at a low pitch, for a number of years.

Fred Yarcho, who is now chairman of the Darwin Water Board, described it this way: "there are irreconcilable differences here...two different groups of people with different life styles." And never the twain shall meet? Well, no one in Darwin seems hopeful for peace among the ranks. Newell is the son of famous artist Gordon Newell: a family who defies custom and conformity. Those on the "opposing" side see life from a more conventional and material outlook.

Yarcho said he sees the conflict as "a struggle for control of the Water Board." He says he is a "little bitter" about it. Yarcho said he worked to get federal grants to improve the water system and got opposition from "Hal Newell and his friends." Well, the grants went through and work was done. Problems with the system continue, although they can probably be handled by a sophisticated plumber.

But plumbing won't loosen the personal antagonisms that have now escalated. It seems the simmering territorial combat escalated into open battle when Hal Newell stepped down from chairmanship of the Water Board. Some new people were elected. Newell remained a Board member. He says shortly after that Board member Nick Davis wanted to have a meeting at his house. "28 people were gathered at the store building in Darwin for the meeting and 6 were at Davis's house," said Newell. "We asked them to come over and they refused." Newell said that Yarcho, Davis, and Supervisor Bob Bremmer were at the house with their wives. He said of the other Board members, "they have blindly tried to take over." Then Newell said character assassination followed in the form of letters to the editor. The fight was apparently on. But both sides feel they have merit.

Yarcho said he feels that Newell's side of the community is trying to take over. As for criticisms of

Darwin's

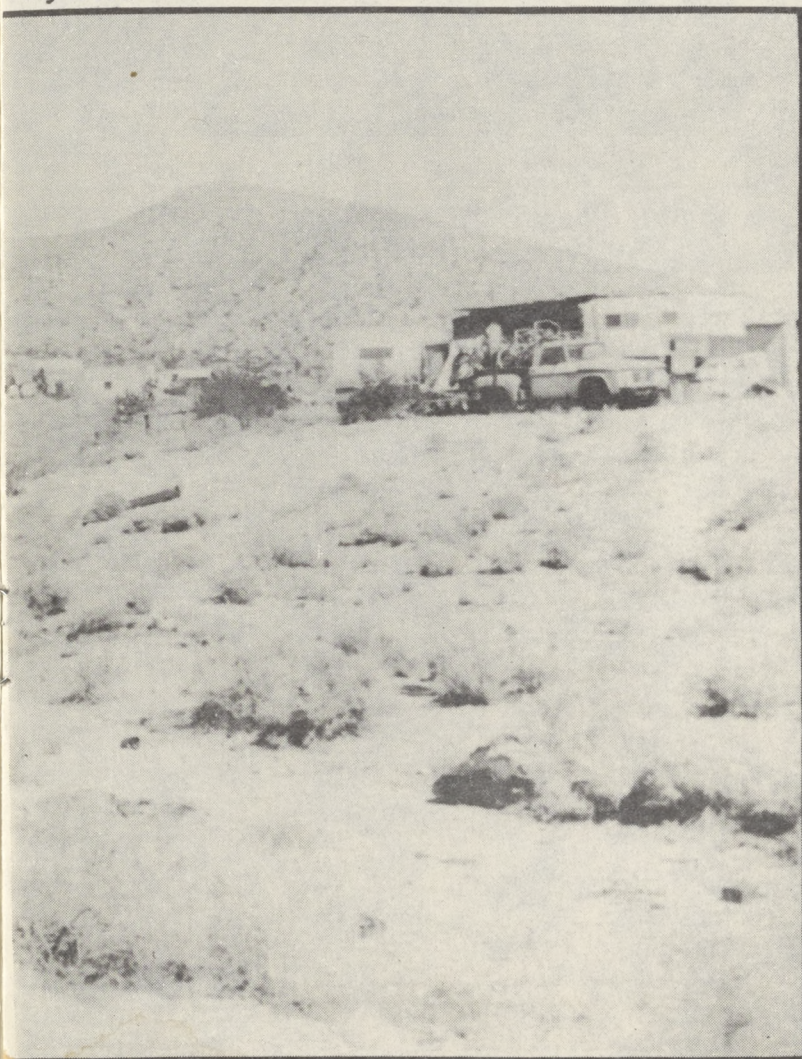


Yarcho and others that they have blatantly refused to listen to the will of the Darwin people, Yarcho said, "it has been my feeling that every time we want to make a decision, we should not have to have a referendum of the people. That would be like the County Supervisors having to put all of their decisions to a vote. But we are not trying to push anything over their heads."

Newell and others vehemently disagree. They say Yarcho and others railroaded Yarcho's daughter, Carol Peterson, onto the Water Board. Yarcho said his daughter applied and was appropriately appointed. He said he abstained from voting on that. Newell says that Yarcho and his friends have told the community that "they don't care what the people want."

And so the polarities go. Yarcho called it all "a terrible thing that is hurting the good of the community." Newell described Darwin's dilemma as "a microcosm of the outside world. It's the same thing with the United States and Russia, with opposing groups on the State, County, and town levels...it's probably the same antagonism that exists between individuals too." Newell thinks it's unfortunate because "we have a chance to make a difference. We are a small enough group of people to do something."

Dry Wash



But right now the something that is being done is a recall movement to rid the Darwin Water Board of Fred Yarcho, Nick Davis, and Betty Bevers. (Rumors in Darwin indicated that these three Board members are planning to resign. Yarcho and Bevers denied that.) Yarcho thinks the movement may succeed. But even if it does, most admit that won't change anything in Darwin. The town itself is physically divided by a dry wash running through the middle...with the left bank on one side and the right on the other. And so the thinking is split...the unconventional minds on one bank and the more customary thinkers on the other...firing retorts across the wash. ■

by ESNS



An experience in fine dining.



Delicious gourmet foods
and a Children's Menu.

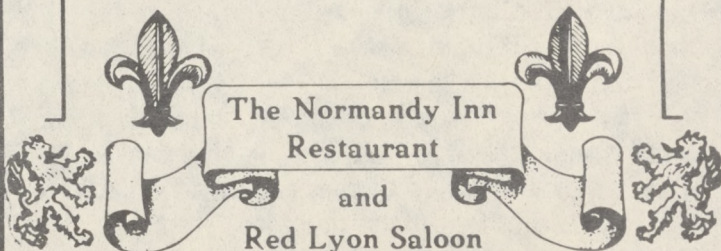


The Red Lyon Saloon
has it's own bar menu.



Saloon & Dining Room
Open from 5pm

Happy Hour
Nightly 5-6



Boulder Drive, June Lake, California 93529
(619) 648-7998

Education and

Education - just about everyone thinks there is something wrong with it these days. Kids are graduating from high school, but many can barely read and write. Billions of dollars go into schools every year, but what comes out is still disappointing.

California used to be a leader in education. But now the State's schools are playing catch-up after a decade of mediocrity. Some educators strongly believe that discipline in the schools deteriorated and with it the quality of learning. Somehow, kids who don't know much keep passing grade after grade. Others feel that the teachers themselves are poorly educated.

Still others insist that money plays a big role. A court case in 1976 (Serrano vs. Priest) said that school districts in wealthier neighborhoods had more money and so there was unequal education in the State. That led to equal funding per number of students.

Then there was Proposition 13 in 1978. That measure caused a shift in tax dollars. The State started to provide dollars to the schools, and local districts nervously wait every year to see what the parent State will dole out. That means our State legislators do have considerable power over what happens to local schools.

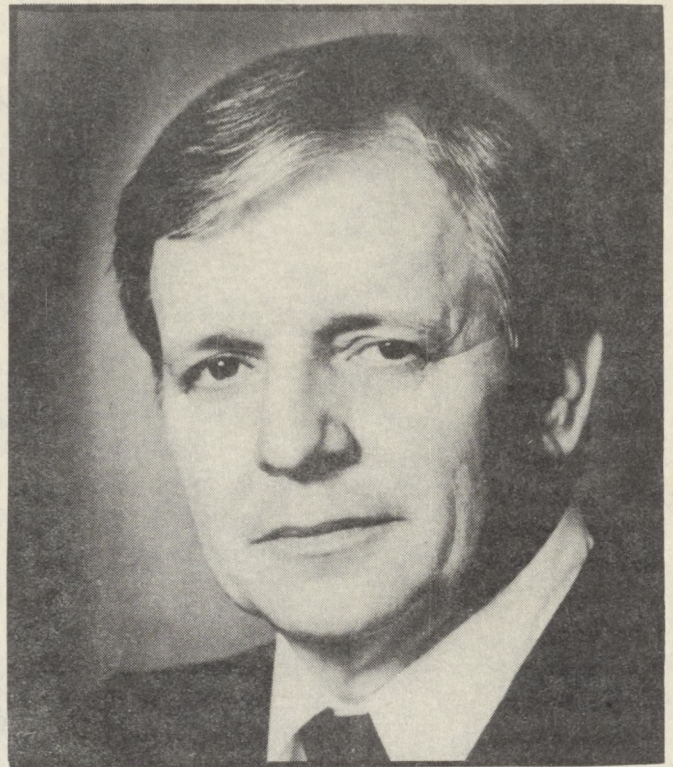
The State constitution says education shall be first priority of the legislative budget, and the people we elect on November 6th will be in the education business, deciding how \$12 billion will be spent on our schools.

The upcoming election could also have a strong influence on future patterns of education in the State with Propositions 36 and 37. Prop 36 is a measure by Howard Jarvis and his Taxpayers Revolt to "Save Prop 13". Jarvis claims that the legislature and the Courts have messed around with "13" to create enough loopholes to in effect, weaken "13". He wants to put more teeth into "13" and cut "government waste".

Proposition 37 is the State Lottery initiative that according to its sponsors, will supplement education with 34% of its receipts. Estimates vary as to how much that would be, but it could be several hundred million dollars for education if it sold well.

News-Letter talked to candidates for the State Senate and Assembly and some local administrators to ask their views on the two Propositions and education in the State.

In the 25th Senatorial district incumbent, H.L. "Bill" Richardson faces a stiff challenge from Apple Valley's Diana Monaghan. A lot of money from across the State has flowed into this campaign and politics have heated up in recent weeks.

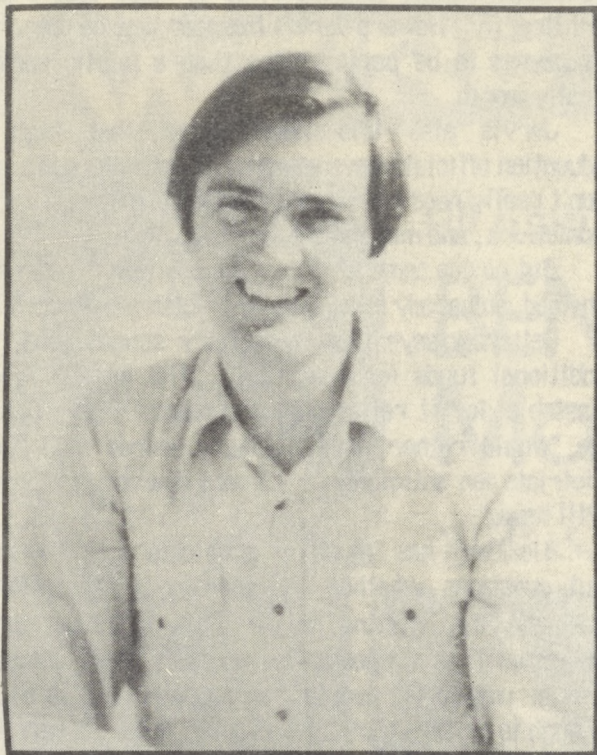


Incumbent Senator H.L. "Bill" Richardson



Challenger Diana Monaghan

the Election



Incumbent Assemblyman Phil Wyman



Challenger Cindy O'Connor

As far as Richardson is concerned, there have been flagrant attempts to get around Prop. 13, and his chief of staff, Mike Carrington, says that we need Prop. 36 to "force entities to come to grips with fiscal realities." A staunch supporter of Howard Jarvis and Prop. 36, Richardson sees a lot of waste in government and, according to Carrington, feels there is enough money coming into the State to have plenty for education. "We need to force prioritization," says Carrington, "and clean up the fiscal act."

Richardson on the other hand is opposed to the lottery. According to Carrington, "education will not benefit from the lottery." He cites lotteries in other states as being miserable failures. "There is no guarantee to help education," says Carrington, "and it is not good to encourage gambling."

Challenger Monaghan on the other hand is opposed to Prop. 36, referring to it as "Jaws 4". She sees Prop. 13 taking away local control of school district funding (property taxes) and transferring that control to the State legislature. Monaghan wants more local control for "who knows how better to govern than those closest," says the challenger.

She is neutral on Prop. 37, voicing concerns over whether the money earmarked for education will be used as the main budget rather than as a supplement to education. Monaghan says, "education should not rely on gambling, and if it is passed, it should not replace the current budget."

In the 34th Assembly district, Representative Phil Wyman is being challenged by Bishop resident, Cindy O'Connor. Wyman is supporting Prop. 36 and feels it "will have no particular effect on education finance." He says he supported Prop. 13 and says that "36" has earned his support. Wyman does say that "13 has affected local control" and he wants to see it preserved. "Returning general obligation bonds back to the districts would return local control, even though the money is coming from the State," says Wyman.

The incumbent is opposed to the lottery. He feels it is "a declining revenue source - organized crime could get involved - and it doesn't give enough lee-way to the legislature."

The challenger, Cindy O'Connor, opposes Prop. 36 for more local control is lost, and the State will be further relied upon to finance local government. O'Connor feels

(continued on p. 12)

Education (continued from p. 11)

education is the #1 issue in the district and feels the legislature needs to look at getting a stable funding base, for right now the various school districts are "not sure of money until July".

O'Connor is opposed to Prop.37 too. She feels the State hasn't "any business in gambling", and she's afraid the legislature will "use the education money for something else."

All four of the Legislature candidates do not endorse the lottery - Prop.37. The two incumbents are for Prop.36 and the two challengers are against it.

How do some of the local educators feel about the two propositions? News-Letter asked them too. We talked to Don Remley of the Lone Pine district, Ron Huebert of Owens Valley school, Jeff Blackwell of the Bishop High School, and Ken Getschow County Superintendent of Schools. All four we talked to were strongly opposed to Prop.36.

Getschow says that education was devastated by Prop.13- taking the largest cuts of any government department. He thinks that "36" could "be dangerous" to education and wonders where the funds are going to come from to replace \$1.2 Billion if "36" passes. "When "13" passed, districts turned from a stable source of revenue to unstable funding," says Getschow, and he would like to see education funding "get out of the political arena". Getschow would also like "more persons elected to the legislature who have direct experience in education - prior educators who know first hand the needs of education."

Jeff Blackwell is also opposed to Prop.36. He feels that "Prop.13 greatly hamstrung districts to go to the public for money" and sees "36" as more of the same. Blackwell says that "13" backfired for instead of local control, which is what voters wanted, "we're now 100% beholden to the State for money".

Don Remley of the Lone Pine district says he's against Prop.36. He sees "36" as "adding extra teeth to "13" and limiting further the amount of money small districts can raise." Remley notes that the amount of money in the Lone Pine district has decreased in past years with declining enrollment and loss of some federal funds. "It has taken creativity on our part" says Remley, "to have enough money." He feels with "13" and "36" (if it passes) the school districts are becoming part of a larger State system. They "treasure their independence" and don't want to "be dependent on the State."

Ron Huebert of Owens Valley district in Independence feels that "36" could be detrimental and create further hardship on the school district. He feels "education has come a long way since Prop.13 and maybe "13" forced it. "13" changed the whole attitude on getting money," says Huebert, and the accountability now required to the State

has improved "education's credibility". But Huebert says, "we're not throwing money away" and does not like the way Jarvis is pushing "36". He doesn't like the nature of Jarvis' approach and questions Jarvis' tactics.

Predictably, all of the local educators oppose Prop.36. That measure does restrict how districts will function, making it impossible to raise fees and rates arbitrarily. Howard Jarvis has said that he doesn't want taxpayers to be paying more than a public service is really worth.

Jarvis also told News-Letter that high State education officials have admitted that California's schools don't really need more money but "more discipline, more homework, and more of the three R's."

But no one came up with a proposition to address that. Instead, somebody came up with a lottery - Prop.37.

Getschow says that the lottery sounds good, if it's additional funds for education. "The lottery is really unstable, for it relies on the economy," says Getschow. He "would rather have a stable source of income so districts can anticipate in advance how much money they will have."

Blackwell has "no moral problems" with the lottery, but questions whether the money for education will supplant the existing money or will supplement the budget as it is supposed to. He feels there should be a "better way to tax people" for education and is not naive enough to believe that "this is going to be the salvation of education."

Remley is personally against the lottery but is professionally in favor of it. He is "in favor of more money", but the "lottery is gambling" and he's "sorry personally, it has come to this."

Huebert is for Prop.37 and has "no philosophical problems with the lottery." He feels that "people are going to gamble anyway" but is leery of "a lot of promises."

The four educators are more or less in favor of the lottery for what it can do for education, but are reserved in their opinion of the actual benefits until they see it work.

So, the November election might change at least the financial side of education, and some say that the pendulum may swing the other way to bring back discipline and serious learning. While those running after political office say education is important, none of them said exactly what has to be done to make a dramatic difference. Anyway, we have their comments...so you decide. ■

by Jackson Pound

VOTE
Nov. 6th

From Death Valley
to Bridgeport

**FOR THE NEWS,
WE'RE NOW NO. 1!***

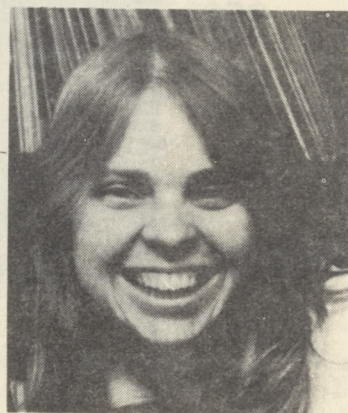
*ESNS survey



On Radio and Television

BENETT KESSLER
Marilyn Fisher

with Guy Godfrey



Also up-to-date
Daily Stock Market
reports from
DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS

The most complete
local and area
news coverage in the
Eastern High Sierra

At Bishop, Big Pine
and Mammoth
watch

"Your ole Weather Buff"

DON MARCELLIN

with the weather

A Public Service of
**EASTERN SIERRA
NEWS SERVICE**

Return to
KESR
600 AM
7am, 8am, noon, 5pm

KMMT-FM

8am, noon, 5pm on
102.6 (Bishop) 106 (Mammoth)

ICTV-Ch. 12, Television
Bishop & Big Pine
6 & 8 pm Mon., Wed., Fri.

Ch. 5 Television
MAMMOTH
6:30 & 8 pm Mon., Wed., Fri.

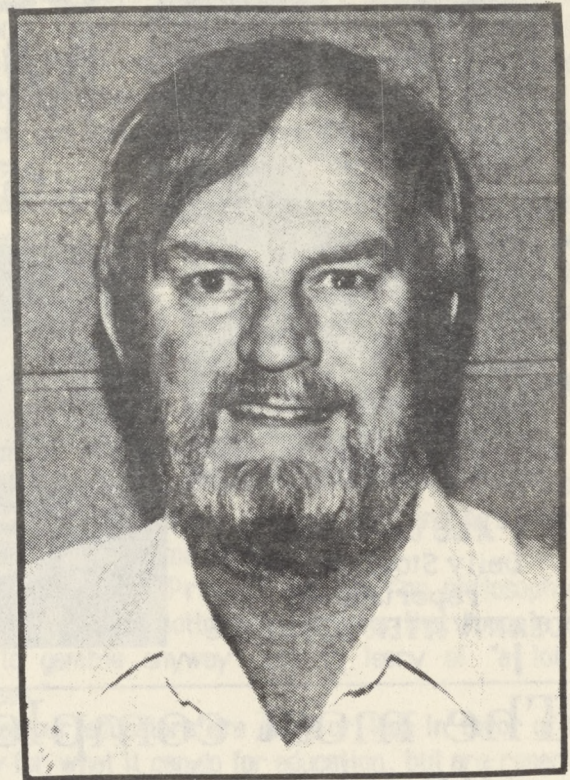
For Supervisor, 5th District

. . . Elect . . .

JEROME F.

"JERRY" ZEUTZIUS

- **27 years experience in**
 - ✓ communication skills
 - ✓ business management
 - ✓ health-care administration
 - ✓ housing administration
 - ✓ economic planning
- **Long-time Lone Pine resident and property owner**
- **Korean War veteran**



I BELIEVE IN

- **Open, responsive government**
- **Community public hearings and fact-finding studies to identify people's needs**
- **Working FULL-TIME to fulfill those needs**

VOTE

MIKE LeSAGE

**Democrat for Congress,
20th District**

****"He is a thoughtful man of
unquestionable integrity."**

****"LeSage is bright and articulate.
He is one of the best men to
come along the political scene
in a good many years."**

****"He is doing what needs to
be done. He is setting forth
large issues with directness
and honesty."**

***(Quotes from May 18, 1984, San Luis
Obispo County Telegram-Tribune.)**



"THE PEOPLE ARE MY SPECIAL INTEREST"

According to the National Council of Senior Citizens,
your incumbent voted once in favor of Seniors on
30 key issues over a term of 3 years and abstained
twice.

Our incumbent voted to allow export of
United States technology manufactured by
foreign subsidiaries of United States
Corporations. (Erlenborn amendment HR3231)

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mike LeSage

FORUM - your view

Express
Yourself
In writing

To the Editor:

My reason for writing is to enlighten those who claim that "the Board made the wrong choice." On the contrary, it would have been next to impossible for the Board to have made a "wrong" choice among the four candidates, as any one of us would have been capable of assuming the duties of County Clerk. What they did was to make a selection that was not expected or predetermined. Actually, they made a good choice based on the qualifications required. Jeanne Lopez is well qualified.

We should pity those who cannot accept defeat with honor and dignity (whether defeat was one's own, or a friend's). And those who took part in the notoriously demeaning petition have only succeeded in discrediting and disgracing themselves in the eyes of many people.

A comment was made--that Lopez does not "fit the image" of the traditional politician: how true, and what a refreshing change!

And, now, Mr. Pound, with respect to your reporting in the October issue--it reeks of one-sidedness.

You reported only the negative comments regarding the County Clerk appointment. I heard a few of those, too. On the other hand, I heard numerous positive exclamations: e.g. "Wonderful," "Terrific," "It wasn't a set-up job for a change," "Surprising, but a good choice," "I can't believe it, but I love it," and many more.

Your article states that Harry describes the appointment as "political back-scratching." What constitutes political back-scratching? The fact that Lopez asked for Bremmer's support and attended his campaign dinner, or the fact that Harry asked for his support and would have attended his campaign dinner.

Where is the difference between the two candidates' actions? Yet, Lopez was singled out as a political back-scratcher. If true, then Harry's actions would be "attempted political back-scratching."

Your article implied that Lopez' asking for support was dirty pool. In all honesty, isn't it a common practice to solicit support from anyone who may be able to assist one in obtaining a position they desire?

Too often I have read the statement that Bremmer was obligated to Lopez for her endorsement; BUT, neither Lopez nor Harry publicly endorsed him. Therefore, common sense would dictate that obligation for an endorsement was not Bremmer's motive for nominating Lopez.

(The assertion that Lopez endorsed Bremmer at his campaign dinner originated from plain and simple careless reporting - not yours. Many people at that

dinner did stand and endorse him, and when Lopez was seen standing, it was apparently assumed that she was following suit, but her words were obviously not heard.)

You further state that "it's an undeclared rule among Supervisors that if an issue concerns a particular district, the other Supervisors will defer to that district's Supervisor for an indication on how to vote." What a cop-out that statement is: nevertheless, the rule would not apply in this instance because the appointment of a County Clerk is not a district issue, but rather a COUNTY issue! So, how can Bremmer be faulted for the lack of persistence of the others to stand by their original convictions--after all, Bremmer is only ONE vote out of five.

So, the mystery question still looms before us! Why did Bremmer nominate Lopez? Could it possibly be that there were no politics involved? Heaven forbid! What, then, would we have to write about and to talk about.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie J. Wilkinson
Lone Pine

The News-Letter welcomes reader's letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and consisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to P.O. Box 313, Independence, CA 93526.

*Just about
anything you'd need!*

FRESH MEAT PRODUCE

JOSEPHS

BI-RITE MARKET
And department store
LONE PINE

Benbrook

Benbrook does his best to try and be an optimist, but it doesn't work.

by Clarence Benbrook



Continental Telephone urges you to buy your own telephone by advising that you don't rent your toaster. I can't make phone calls on my toaster and I don't have to buy it in order to do business with the bakery.

Mondale and Reagan differ on weapons systems. Reagan wants to re-arm the U.S. Mondale wants to re-arm Venus De Milo.

Omie Mairs says: Most of the things Congress passes are flushible.

Reagan's Law: An ounce of image is worth a pound of performance. Mondale's Law: Never sell more of yourself than you can afford to buy back.

The Senate adjourned for the year. With more incompleated passes than the Seattle Seahawks.

Mondale says Reagan is not too old to run, but his fiftieth birthday presents are now antiques.

It is a lawyer's indispensable duty to get rid of the facts that are confusing the case.

Ferraro's dilemma. When you are up to your ass in sharks it's hard to remember that you just went in for a swim.

Jack Pound says the reason some of his pictures turn out dim is that the spirit is willing but the flash is weak.

Old politicians never die, they just steal away.

Mondale says unemployment isn't working. Labor is the curse of the working man.

Mondale to Reagan: "How do you feel?" Reagan to Mondale: "How's your high blood pressure?"

Ferraro says Reagan's tax cut was not fair. Which is worse: An unfair tax cut or a fair tax increase?

D.C. Court says a fetus is a person. They ought to know as they have aborted enough laws.

The big debate gave all the candidates a chance to be somebody they aint. Mondale lost his whine. Ferraro turned from tiger to pussycat. Reagan flunked being himself. Bush washed out his chances of being a teacher.

The candidates aren't going to cut Social Security. They're going to call the reduction a Senior Citizen's Discount.

Ferraro should be forgiven for her financial disclosures. They were probably made during her

It is whispered that Dr. Jones stole a patient from Dr. Christensen. Dr. Christensen is sewing for alienation of infection.

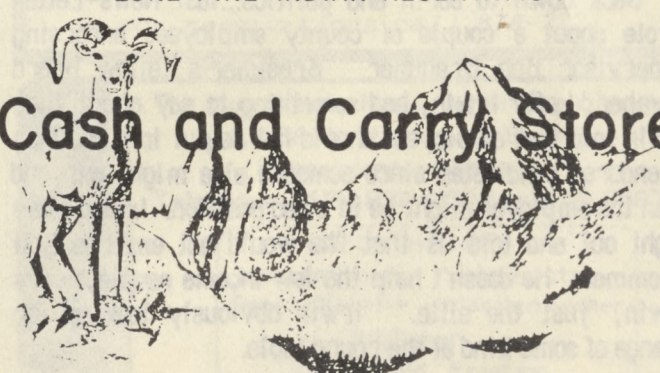
Older people have gone through most of life, but it takes the young ones to know what it is all about.

Benbrook's Law: Never let writing interfere with your misspelling.

Ben

LONE PINE INDIAN RESERVATION

Cash and Carry Store



1103 SO. MAIN ST. - LONE PINE, CA. (93545)
(714) 876-4296



Benett
Kessler



Notes from B.K.

GLIDING OVER THE HIMALAYAS/ NO FOR BOB/
UMETCO RUMORS?/ PROP 36 AND MONEY/ \$60
MILLION SURPLUS/ MARY JANE

Forgot to tell you last time...met Cliff Robertson at the Bishop Airport. He and his crew were practicing video-taping while soaring in a glider plane...he's going to glide over the Himalayas. Robertson graciously agreed to take some time for an interview. He was in the middle of worrying over weather and flying conditions.



Me and Cliff Robertson

Robertson is even more charming and handsome off camera. He has played a wide variety of roles over the years. Most lately - on television's night time soap "Falcon Crest" and the man in the AT&T commercials. On the horizon for Robertson is a miniseries based on Ken Follett's novel, Key to Rebecca. It will air in the spring. Then he says he's going to head for the Himalayas.

What makes Cliff Robertson happy? "A good time with my family and friends and the knowledge that there is someone up there greater than you and me."

Back down to earth and politics...last News-Letter wrote about a couple of county employees endorsing Supervisor Bob Bremmer. Bremmer's fellow Board member, Lefty Irwin, had something to say about that. Irwin said that employees should not be put in a position to endorse candidates since someone else might win and then the employee might be in a bad position. Irwin came right out and told us that "he would not endorse Bob Bremmer. He doesn't help the low income people," says Irwin, "just the elite." Irwin obviously looking for change of some kind at the round table.

We hear rumors that UMETCO, formerly Union Carbide, may be having troubles again. The tungsten

market has showed no great improvement since the some 100 workers were called back on the job. UMETCO management admits that but insists no changes in operation now.

Proposition 36 has all the government and school people in a spin...scared they're going to lose some money. Gave Howard Jarvis a call about his new proposition. He's 82 years old and working the hours of a young man. Jarvis told me that the top State education official admitted money is not the problem of our schools. The problem is "lack of discipline, lack of homework and lack of emphasis on the 3 R's." Makes sense. But bureaucrats usually prefer playing with more money than getting down to business.

DWP likes money too. Jarvis told me that some of the top DWP muckety mucks came to see him for reassurance that Proposition 36 wouldn't stymie their ability to raise water and power rates. As if a surplus \$60 million every year isn't enough!

VPP Department: Mary Jane Owen. She was the senior citizen of the month in October in Bishop. But the most enjoyable part about Mary Jane is her straightforward talk about the City of Los Angeles in the early years. We'll tell you more about that next time.

Solution to the Owens Dry Lake dust problem: get Benbrook to keep his mouth closed...stop all the hot air currents in Southern Inyo!

...MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD
NEWS EVERY DAY...

Sincerely,

BK

Some took note with interest that the Supervisors held off a vote on the current agreement proposal until election day.

SHERIFF'S HAIR RAISING

Something hair raising in the Inyo Sheriff's department? Well...it was just Sheriff Don Dorsey's beard!

The Sheriff vacationed in the backcountry of Idaho and came back to work with a new look. After all, who wants to shave when you're camping and roughing it in the beautiful outdoors. Dorsey says he and his family had a great time. Besides being gorgeous, the Idaho wilds don't have telephones and that's the best news of all for any busy public official.

After being in civilization for about a week, the Sheriff did go back to shaving and answering phone calls. And one of those calls was good news - Dorsey found out that three of his officers qualified for a Certificate of Valor award from the Attorney General. Sergeant Mike Nicholas, Sergeant Steve Rogers, and Deputy Jim Neujhar were scheduled to get the awards November 1st. And, of course, the same three men received the Medal of Valor locally. Lieutenant Jack Goodrich and Deputy Gary Moore received Medals of Courage. It was all over the roles they played during that bizarre shoot-out at the Sheriff's department in past months. ■

by ESNS

The Inyo County NEWS-LETTER

P.O.Box 313, Independence, CA 93526

Order a subscription for a friend - or yourself

☐ 24 issues
\$13

☐ 12 issues
\$7

☐ Enter my subscription ☐ Extend my subscription

MY NAME _____ PLEASE PRINT

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY

*Your only locally owned office
in Southern Inyo...
serving Southern Inyo*

1. Comfortable home in Lone Pine with guest house, large rooms, fireplace, garage. In good condition. \$65,000.
2. Liquor store, gas station, mini-mart combination - includes 1 acre private land on Highway 395. Priced right.
3. Independence. Well maintained, older home on spacious double lot. \$78,000.

Century 21
310 so. main street, suite 108

DOROTHY BONNEFIN,
Owner-Broker

We're Here For You.

lone pine, california 93545

876-4121

**DINE TONIGHT
AT**

LINNA'S
Italian Villa



**AUTHENTIC
ITALIAN
FOOD**

(Highway 395) Across from the Courthouse
Independence, CA

For reservations call 878-2221

The Inyo County News-Letter is published
at 536 North Edwards Street,
Independence, California.
Telephone: (619) 878-2508 or 878-2582

Editorial Staff:

Jackson Pound John Heston
Benett Kessler Marilyn Fisher

Publisher:

"Sierra Gold" Printing

All correspondence, including letters to
the editor, should be mailed to P.O. Box 313,
Independence, California 93526

Pearsonville - "Hubcap Capitol of the World"



Lucy Pearson shows off some of her hubcaps, and Andrew proudly displays his 1951 Cadillac pick-up that he is restoring.

by Jackson Pound

They were pioneers of sorts. Andrew and Lucy Pearson began building their town of Pearsonville in 1961 - back when there was no water or electricity on a stretch of "395" just before the Kern County line. They started by building a steak house, but then because of money, Andrew started doing mechanical work. He couldn't get parts on weekends so he began collecting used parts and has built his wrecking yard business into the largest used parts supplier between L.A. and Reno.

They also have the largest collection of used hubcaps anywhere around. In fact they call Pearsonville - "Hubcap Capitol of the World." Lucy estimates their collection to be at least 50,000 strong. They've collected from other wrecking yards and have some worth over \$100 a piece. Some used Mustang hubcaps are worth \$50 each.

So what do you do with 50,000 hubcaps. Lucy says, "I think they're real pretty when you clean them up." She washes, numbers, and organizes them and has them located at various spots around the yard.

Lucy explains there's a difference in hubcaps. "Americans make the best - they're good quality and won't rust, using real chrome. Japanese hubcaps are junk. They'll rust in a couple of years, just like the after-market ones you buy at K-Mart."

So if you're in the market for some good used hubcaps, better stop in at the "Hubcap Capitol of the World - Pearsonville". ■



Inyo County
News-Letter
P.O. Box 313
Independence,
CA 93526

US POSTAGE PAID
BULK RATE
Independence, CA
Permit #6
93526

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

John Lee
P.O. Box 146
Independence, CA 93526